

A Description of the Exhibit from
M. C. Hopewell's Farm.

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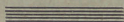
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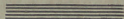
THE _____

MOUND BUILDERS

OF OHIO



**Their Village Sites, Graves, Etc.
Fully Illustrated.**



**An Account of the Exploration of the Hopewell Group, Ross County
The Copper Designs, Obsidian, Effigies, Etc.**

A DESCRIPTION OF THE

EXHIBIT FROM

M. C. HOPEWELL'S FARM

ROSS COUNTY, OHIO.

The Exhibit herein described was made under the direction of Prof. F. W. Putnam,
Chief of Department of Archæology and Ethnology.

ILLUSTRATED.

For Distribution.



THE OHIO MOUNDS.

We shall endeavor in this pamphlet to show how the mound-building tribes of the Ohio Valley lived; to explain their principal weapons, ornaments and domestic utensils. We shall deal largely with the collection made under the direction of the Chief of the department of Archæology and Ethnology, Professor F. W. Putnam. This collection was secured during the course of explorations in Southern Ohio by Mr. Warren K. Moorehead, who had charge of the field work in Ohio. Many of the readers of this pamphlet are not familiar with the distribution of mounds, village sites and enclosures in the Ohio Valley, and before entering into a description of the collection itself, it would be well to tell where the most important prehistoric remains are located.

The southern part of the State was occupied by two mound-building tribes. They are distinguished from each other by physical peculiarities, by the difference in their implements, and in the character of their burials. One of these peoples had a long, narrow head, the cranium of the other was broader and not so long from the frontal bone to the occipital. Both of these tribes buried in mounds, lived in settled communities, cultivated corn, etc. The short-heads were the most progressive of the two; and the largest earthworks in the Scioto and Miami Valleys are attributed to them, while the Muskin-

gum Valley and the scattered works throughout the State seem to have been erected by the long-heads. The northern part of Ohio is deficient in mounds and enclosures. In historic times it was inhabited by several tribes, prominent among which were the Delawares, Mingoes, Wyandots, etc. In the southern part of the State only the Shawnees lived in any considerable numbers, and the sites of their towns are easily distinguished from the village sites of the pre-historic people.

The survey which worked in the interest of Professor Putnam's Department confined its exploration to the pre-historic peoples of Ohio, and therefore the collection on exhibition in the Anthropological Building presents no objects which are of European manufacture.

In the Little Miami Valley there are several large fortifications which have been thoroughly explored, notably—the Turner group near Loveland, the Madisonville cemetery near Cincinnati, and Fort Ancient in Warren County, six miles from Lebanon. Fort Ancient (as the name implies) is a defensive earth-work, containing 18,712 feet of embankment and is situated on the edge of a high plateau, overlooking the Little Miami River. The embankment is as massive as the average railroad grade, and encloses over 130 acres. There are two large villages situated within the enclosure, and one of 50 or 60 acres in extent along the banks of the river, three or four hundred yards from the fortification above.

The Madisonville explorations yielded an enormous number of bone and stone implements, something over a thousand burials, and many bowls and dishes of clay. A great quantity of the bones of animals, birds and fish which the villagers used as food, was found.

The Turner group marked the site of a large village. It was explored by the Peabody Museum. The burials were quite different from those of Madisonville and Fort Ancient, and the class of objects found in the altars and with the skeletons evinced more skill on the part of the Turner Group Tribe in the making of certain implements and ceremonials than those of either of the other localities. All three of the sites are within a day's journey (on foot) of each other, and it is to be supposed that each of these three settlements were occupied by the same race. The difference between them is local, not racial or tribal.

THE RELICS FROM THE MOUNDS AND VILLAGE SITES.

In the Scioto Valley there are nearly a hundred large enclosures and several thousand tumuli. Several of these enclosures have yielded a class of implements of beautiful finish; in others have been found materials which have been transported from a great distance. One is inclined to believe that such groups as the ones illustrated by the collections about to be described, marked the farthest advanced community of either the short-heads or long-heads; that the more skillful workmen, the successful

traders, the chiefs or most prominent men of the tribes naturally located in the larger villages, and that by residence of many years in one place, the art of copper and flint working, of carving on bone and shell, had developed to a degree not attained by the tribes living in the smaller communities. In these statements we do not theorize. The facts brought to light in course of the recent investigations are such as have been briefly stated. Ohio seems to have been settled by several savage tribes, some of which attained great proficiency in the manufacture of weapons, the fashioning of copper, and in the construction of enclosures.

THE ENCLOSURES.

* The enclosures may be divided into two groups,—hill-top fortifications or defensive works, and valley ceremonial or residence structures. Indeed, the difference lies not so much in the *character* of the enclosures as in their *position and location*. Nearly every group, whether on hill or on plain, has evidence of occupation as a village site, for fragments of pottery, burnt areas, ash-pits, broken implements, etc., mark the sites of habitations. This is true of the peculiar enclosures (combinations of the square and circle, octagons, etc.) which have been regarded as religious or of ceremonial character, as well as those confessedly of a defensive character.

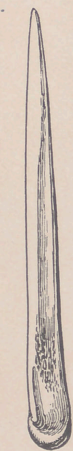
* See Squier and Davis' "Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley" for fine diagrams and maps of the enclosures, Smithsonian Institution, Vol. I, 1847.

The earth and stone works of the Ohio Valley vary in extent from five to one hundred and thirty acres enclosed, from walls two to thirty feet in height. The largest of the stone structures is in Perry County near the Licking County Reservoir. The wall stands six or seven feet high in places. At other points the natives have dug away the earth from a limestone ledge and exposed the face of the rock. This face or front (5 to 7 feet high) is utilized as a part of the wall. Fort Ancient in Warren County, Fort Hill in Highland County, and Fort Miami at the mouth of the Big Miami River at the corners of Ohio and Indiana are typical hill-top works. The Hopewell Group, Mound City, High Banks, etc., all in Ross County, Ohio, are typical plain enclosures. These are accompanied by numerous mounds and in this respect differ from the hill-top enclosures. It is in the tumuli of the plain or terrace works that the most valuable and interesting discoveries have been made, not only by the Department Survey, but in years past by Messrs. Squier and Davis, the Bureau of Ethnology and private individuals.

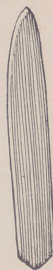
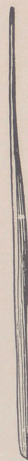
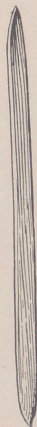
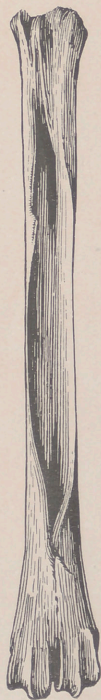
About 100 feet from the north door of the Anthropological building in the main aisle are four models of typical Ohio earth-works. The first represents the great Serpent Mound of Adams County. It has a religious significance. Next is Fort Hill, a fortification of considerable extent, situated on one of the highest of the Sunfish Hills.

The third is the Turner group, from the altars of which Prof. Putnam took such interesting gold, silver and terra-cotta ornaments and figures. The fourth represents the Hopewell group, situated on the North Fork of Paint Creek, 7 miles from Chillicothe, Ohio. It is known in the Government reports as Clark's Works, or the North Fork works, but as these two names are confusing, it was called by the recent survey, the Hopewell Group in honor of the present owner of the estate. It will be seen by the model that all the mounds are within an enclosure. The embankments surround 127 acres and are five or six feet in height. All of the structure is of earth. On the east side of it is a square having four gateways and enclosing four mounds. This portion is practically obliterated.

The group lies upon the second and third terraces of the creek. There are two good springs within it and the creek lies one-third of a mile to the south. It is very unusual to find an earthwork which occupies both the second and third terraces as does this one. The third terrace is 30 or 35 feet higher than the second. One cannot conceive how such an enclosure could be of benefit to the inhabitants as a defensive work. Bowman might easily run from the plain north of the wall up the embankment and have entire command of the village and the mounds below. The work, therefore, must have been ceremonial, or of some character unknown to those who explored it. There are twenty-one mounds in the enclosure, and

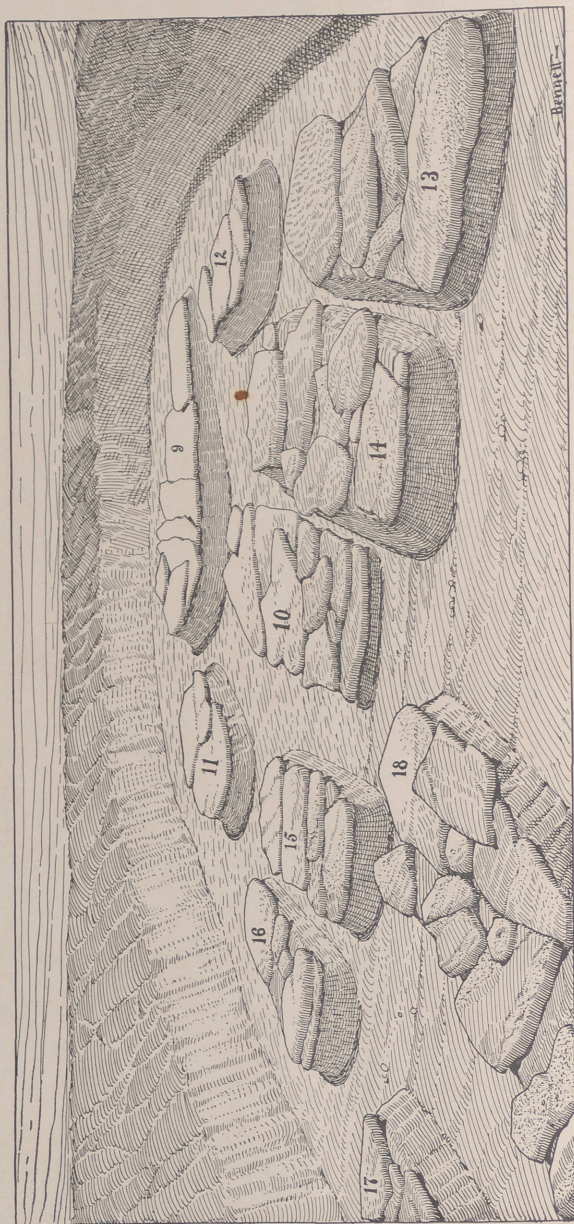


—Bennett—









Group of 22 Stone Graves, ~~72~~ Ancient.
 Overlay 10 shown in illustration

these range in size from one to two feet in height and forty feet in diameter, to the Effigy, (so-called because of its external resemblance to the human trunk) which is 510 ft. long, 220 ft. wide, and 23 1-2 ft. in height. In the Effigy were found the most interesting burials and important relics taken from the group. The eastern end of the Effigy was the highest. The altitude has been given in the above measurements. The center of the structure was about 21 ft. in height, while the western or lowest end reached 18 ft. at its highest point.

Next to the effigy in size was the oblong mound, located in the southeast corner of the enclosure. Its dimensions were 200 by 135 by 16. The other mounds were between 2 and 6 feet in height and generally conical in form.

After looking at the models, the collection will be found by turning down the aisle towards the Forestry Building. It is right across from the models, between them and Mr. Seever's Missouri collection. The exhibit fills six flat cases, and with it are two stone graves, two altars, and a pile of flint implements surrounded by a red railing. Two of the six are filled with material from Fort Ancient, Oregonia and Madisonville.

FORT ANCIENT.

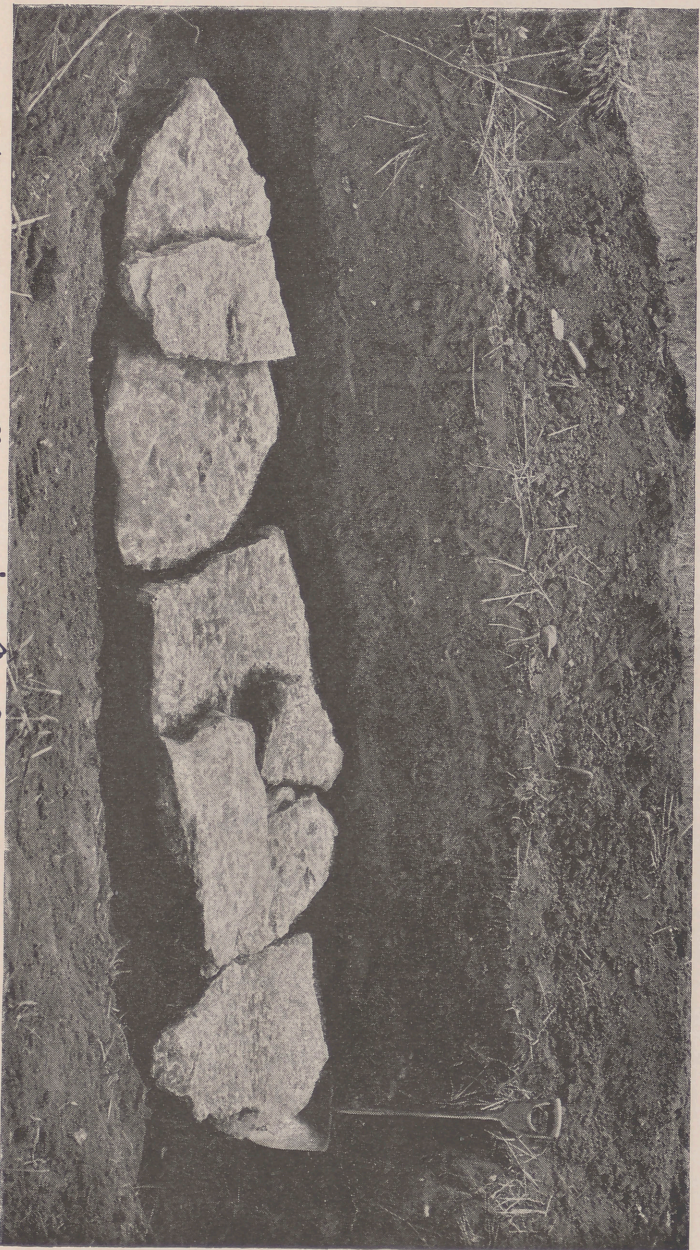
The stone graves referred to illustrate the mode of burial practised at Fort Ancient and along the Little Miami River. The one exhibited by Mr. H. I. Smith

shows the grave closed and the other exhibit by Mr. Moorehead shows the skeleton and the interior of the vault after the top stones have been removed. This latter is one of the group of twenty-one graves which occupied a space 30 by 40 feet along the banks of the Little Miami River, 3 feet from the present surface. Above these two graves was much village site refuse such as broken pottery, bones of birds and animals, broken implements, etc. Numbers of ash-pits were scattered through the village site. These ash-pits vary from 5 to 7 feet in depth and from 8 to 10 feet in diameter. As ashes have a wonderful preservative quality all the delicate bone needles and piercing implements used by the primitive people, together with minute bones of small animals, birds and fish, were preserved entire. The survey could tell from the contents of the ash-pits just what the inhabitants of the village lived upon. There were thousand of fresh water mussel shells scattered through the pits and hundreds of deer and catfish bones. Apparently the villages were very fond fish and mussels. A group of graves, a single grave and a skeleton after the stones of the grave have been removed and some of the bone perforators, are shown in the illustrations accompanying these pages.*

Two cases containing the Fort Ancient and Oregonia finds are next to the Missouri display. It will be seen that the crania and other bones found at Fort Ancient are

* Illustrations from "Primitive Man in Ohio," G. P. Putnam's, New York.

Stone Grave Oregonia D. (Mph River from McConcine)









Skeleton from Oregonia (Four miles up river from
the Ancient)

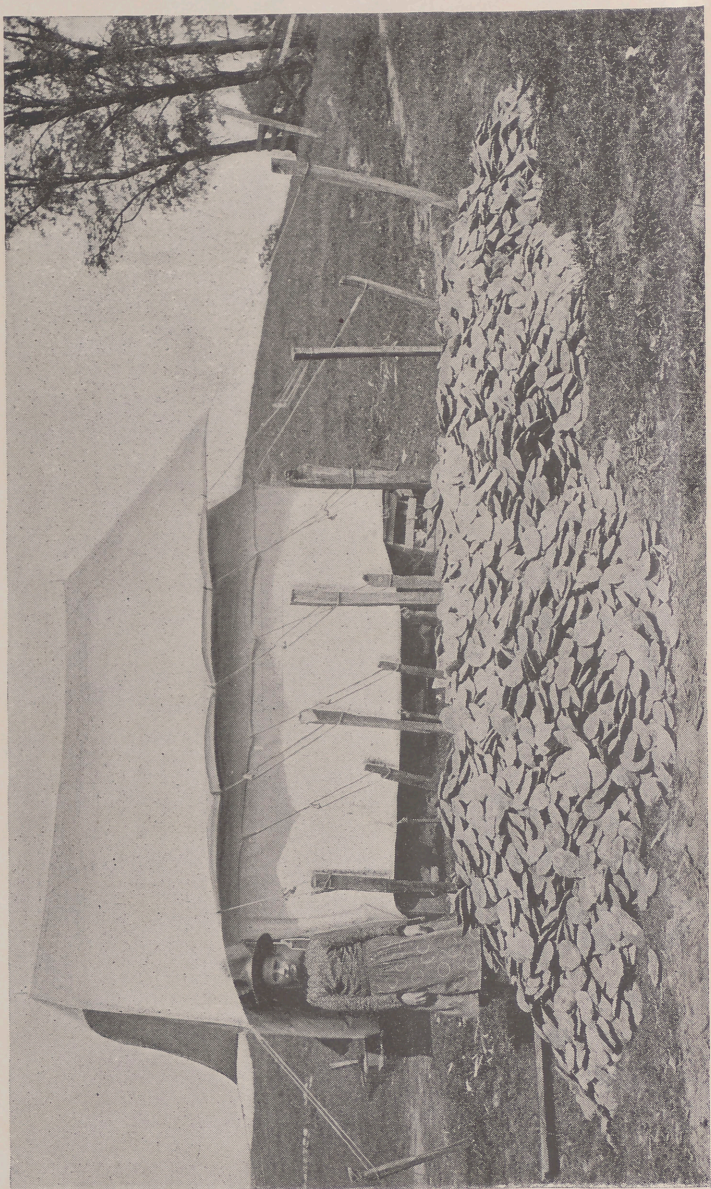
better preserved than those from the Hopewell group. While this may be due to some extent to the difference in the age of the burials, yet the favorable conditions under which the Fort Ancient interments were made had much to do with the better preservation of the stone grave skeletons. The burials were along the river in sand, and when the stream overflowed its banks (or in case of a heavy rain), the water rapidly penetrated the sand and gravel to a depth below the interments. In the cemetery within the fortification on the hills above, interments were also made in stone graves. About three feet from the surface there is a heavy stratum of a tough, glacial clay. In case of a heavy rain the water penetrated through this clay and lay above it or slowly filtered through it. The survey found very badly decayed skeletons in mud, although three weeks had passed since the last heavy rain. Those found in the Hopewell group were also poorly preserved, although they were buried at various depths, (from 4 to 23 feet below the surface) according to the height of the mound.

As will be seen in the cases, but little whole pottery was found at Fort Ancient. Several vessels were taken from the mounds on the estate of Hiram Taylor, six miles up the river from the Fort. One of the skeletons in this mound was unusually well preserved. Lying alongside of the skeleton was a flint dagger, (double pointed), and some small trinkets. Both the skeleton and the imple-

ments are shown in the Oregonia case. All of the objects and crania from both Fort Ancient and Oregonia are plainly labelled and by following this guide and noting the placards, people will have no trouble in understanding the importance of each find, and in identifying the specimens as to locality, position in the mounds, etc. A number of photographs are placed on top of the Hopewell cases and drawings are scattered throughout the collection. These maps show the distribution of skeletons, the positions of altars, of copper deposits, etc.

THE HOPEWELL EXCAVATIONS.

It is often asked, "How are mounds built? Are burials on or below the original surface?" Most of the Scioto Valley tumuli were built as follows: A level piece of ground was selected and beaten flat, weeds and bushes pulled up, etc. Gravel or sand was laid on the sod, or the ground after having been leveled was burnt. On the floor thus obtained the interments were made. That is, the bodies were laid extended and the objects given as offerings laid alongside of them. The mound was thrown up over the bodies. The altars were built directly upon this floor. Seldom are excavations made for interments below the original surface. When the survey dug down to the hard floor of the mound, it followed along the surface and examined the entire base of the mound omitting only the extreme edges or portions added to the mound by the wear and tear of the elements.



All the mounds of the Hopewell group seem to have been used for burial purposes, save one; that one was about six feet in height, and about 60 feet in diameter at the base. It was a deposit of flint implements aggregating 7232. An illustration is presented of the flint disks when heaped in front of one of the survey tents. These implements are about the size of one's hand, oval in shape, and seem to be unfinished. None of them show any marks of use. A few are well worked, but the greater number of them have but 30 or 40 flakes detached. They seem to have been fashioned by blows directed from the edge of the specimen towards the center. Each flake varies; some are 1-3 and others 2-3 of an inch in length. The disks are made of nodule and not of quarry flint. One large nodule was found with the deposit. It weighs 10 or 12 pounds and seems to have from some point South, but just what point has not yet been determined. The flint lies in the center of the nodule and occupies less than 1-3 of the bulk. Many of the implements are chipped so large that a considerable margin of limestone coating shows around the edges. There are no chips of this material on the village site at the Hopewell group as far as the survey could determine. No arrows, spear-heads, or knives or other finished implements made from the disks were found. Possibly the disks may have been transported by water up the Ohio. The cache is represented nearly as found; it is the largest deposit ever

uncovered in this country, and probably represents the work of a great many skillful chippers for two or three years.

The two altars on exhibition near the deposit of flints were found in two of the smaller mounds of the group. While these altars contained nothing of importance, two larger ones (of the same form as these) found in the Effigy were filled with a valuable collection of ornaments and ceremonials. The altar objects will be described presently.

The altars on exhibition are made of ordinary clay, burnt about 1-5 as hard as brick. The clay was carried in baskets, or other receptacles and modeled *in situ* into a basin shaped cavity. A rim extends around the cavity, and when the altars were first uncovered, this rim gradually sloped down to the floor of the mound. The top of the rim was about a foot above the floor of the mound. As in all altars, a fire was built in the cavity. In them no objects were thrown upon the fire, but those found in the effigy contained some of the finest implements which the mound-builders were capable of manufacturing and were sacrificed to the spirits of the dead.

After the flints had been found the survey opened a number of the smaller mounds of the group. Their contents are exhibited in the north side of the case next to the Missouri collection, alongside of Mr. Riggs' pottery exhibit. In three or four of the mounds one or two decayed skeletons, ocean shells, a few flakes of mica, burnt bones and



-Bennett-

other articles were found. Near the camp site shown in the diagram in one of the cases, is a mound about 4 feet in height and 60 feet across the base. This mound was characterized by a heavy layer of mica, which extended entirely across it. Something over two barrels of large sheets evidently from the mines of North Carolina, and all more or less affected by fire, we exhumed. Some copper celts and pieces of mica carved into ornaments lay upon the base line near the center of the mound.

South of the Effigy near an orchard was a small mound. It only took two days to dig through this one, yet it yielded an interesting skeleton with objects, (Skeleton 176 in case.)

Around the left wrist was a broad band of copper worn as a bracelet. Near the head and neck were ocean shells and beautiful pearl beads. Several copper spool shaped articles and copper hatchets were taken from the body. This skeleton and its paraphernalia are shown in the accompanying illustration.

The copper which was so numerous in Mr. Hopewell's Group comes from Lake Superior, and seems to have been beaten out in a cold state. The pearl beads are both salt and fresh water clam pearls. Many of them are flat and ill-shapen, but something over a thousand are still beautiful and symmetrical. When taken from the shells by the aborigines these pearls were of great value, but to-day they are worthless. In another of the small mounds were

several human jaws cut into ornaments and one creanium with a perforation at the base. The survey began exploration of the Effigy mound about the middle of October, and continued through until the following February, 1892. It was too large to be explored in one excavation, so seven broad cuts or sections were run through the mound beginning at the east end and ending with the west. These cuts included all of the structure except the extreme outer edges; that is 465 feet or the entire mound as it stood when completed by the aborigines.

The following plan was observed, five teams were put upon the top and the sections were worked down within six feet of the bottom; then the teams were moved to the next section and eleven shovelers placed abreast, worked carefully from south to north until the entire trench was excavated to the original surface. By this time the teams would have another section ready and the men were moved. In the first cut, nothing whatever was found. This was discouraging as the work was very expensive, but in spite of this, the survey continued its explorations. In the next cut was Skeleton No. 248 (the one with the head-dress), which is shown in the accompanying illustration. The antlers consist of sheet copper molded around wood. The wood looks like the branch of a thorn tree which was selected as the thorns bore the desired resemblance to antlers. The inside prongs were cut off and around the others was beaten the copper.

The antlers were fitted into the socket and it in turn fastened to a curved band which extended from the individual's chin to a little back of the crown. When adorned by the pearl beads, bear tusks and copper plates with the singular antlers erect upon his head, he must have presented a most striking appearance.

In the third cut at the same level as in the others we found a number of interesting skeletons, two deposits of copper and an altar. One of these skeletons had a beautiful effigy of a beaver and one of a bird, together with several long flat plates of copper near the chest.

In the case opposite the corner of the pile of disks are copper plates and celts found over skeletons Nos. 260 and 261, and also a collection of sheet copper worked in fanciful designs. In the corner of this case lie the antlers; next to them are the plates and the beaver and bird effigy; then follows the deposit of sheet copper which is far the most beautiful and valuable in the entire collection. Thirty or forty designs are stuck together in a mass, six inches in width and two feet long. Upon this mass were laid the other designs and the bracelets and anklets of solid and whole copper, which in the case lie to the left of the adherent mass. With this find were two Swastika crosses. The Swastika has been found on Arkansas pottery in cliff-dweller country, Mexico, Peru and among savage people and civilized people all over the world. Mr. Goodyear, of London, who has written

several able papers upon the Swastika, says it is the greatest of importance and that it could not have occurred to the mind of Ohio mound-builders to make such an emblem unless they had seen it elsewhere. Mr. Goodyear thinks that it was a religious symbol among the mound-builders just as it was among other ancient people. Some of the sheet copper is carved in stencil like patterns, scrolls, etc. Many of them look as if they had been cut with dies and were not the work of a primitive tribe, but upon close examination one observes that the designs, while the same in general are not accurate, and that the edges have been polished and trimmed after the designs were cut out of the sheet. There is nothing in the collection beyond the ability of an intelligent mound-builder to execute.

On the other side of the cases are axes ranging in weight from 4 ounces to 38 pounds, copper plates, &c. With these are partly finished plates and nuggets in process of being beaten out. This proves that the people worked the copper themselves, and although the student confesses that the fine sheet copper seems to indicate the work of a semi-civilized tribe instead of a barbarous people, yet the surroundings and the crude objects found in the same mound indicate that these people made the designs themselves. Further, the fish found with the sheet copper are the white suckers so common in the Scioto and tributary streams. With the deposit is a flat speci-



men beaten out to one-third of an inch in thickness. There is no evidence that white traders ever lived in this village, and there is every indication that the town was not inhabited within the least 350 or 450 years. In 1830 when the land was cleared, the oldest of forest trees covered the mounds and village site. Further up the stream, ten miles away, is the site of the lower Shawanese town, Chillicothe, (upper Chillicothe was three miles north of Xenia, Ohio.) Upon that village site the survey found none of the objects that occur on the Hopewell village site, except hammers, axes, pestles and arrow-heads. There it found bullets, coins and iron tomahawks and glass beads. The two village sites are entirely different. One cannot be classed with the other. Upon the village site at Hopewells were found many carved bones showing both finished and unfinished designs.

Altar No. 2 contained obsidian and beautiful pipes, while altar No. 1 contained neither of them. The ground plan exhibited in one of the cases will show the position of these two altars. The little one was near the centre of the mound, and the large one was in the N. W. corner. In both, the great number of copper spool shaped ornaments on exhibition in the cases were melted and run together. There were over three thousand of these ornaments. Where found singly, they have been placed around the wrists of skeletons, as if they were worn as a bangle. On others, they have been placed upon each side of the head,

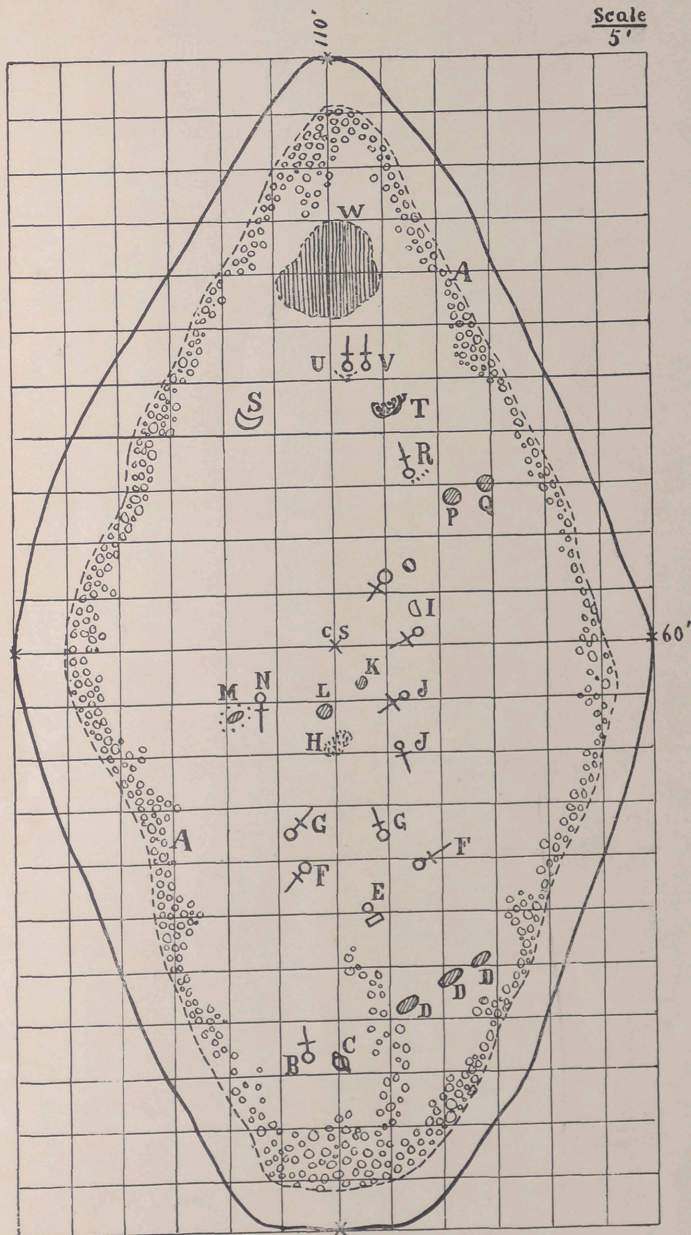
as if worn at the ears. The three thousand found probably represent the entire wealth of the tribe.

Certainly the important skeletons buried in this mound could have been paid no greater tribute than when the poor Aborigines gave them obsidian from Yellowstone, 2,800 miles away; mica from North Carolina, 700 miles distant; cannel-coal from West Virginia, 300 miles; Bad Lands fossils from a distance of 1,500; sharks' teeth and ocean shells from 800 miles distant, and quartz crystal and copper from 100 to 300 miles.

In altar No. 2, beautiful quartz crystal ornaments, and arrowheads, the effigy pipes so gracefully carved, and other fine relics were broken up by the heat. Several whole quartz crystal arrowheads are shown in the cases, together with some of the platform pipes. One beautiful pipe is not on exhibition. It represents the highest degree of culture obtained by the Aborigines of Ohio. It is a duck on the back of a fish, the bowl making the back of the duck, and the stem entering through the mouth of the fish. The scales and fins of the latter, and feathers of the former are all carved in relief. It is the most beautiful piece of workmanship. It is finer, even, than those effigies which Messrs. Squier and Davis sent to the British Museum forty years ago.

All intelligent persons will be pleased to learn that this collection will be preserved in some permanent museum at the close of the Exposition. There it will be studied,

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and from it many new facts concerning the life of the primitive peoples of America will be learned. It is impossible, in a brief pamphlet (as this must needs be) to describe all the features of such a collection, but we have endeavored to give some idea of its importance. Those who wish to learn more of the primitive peoples of Ohio in the light of investigations, which extend over a period of ten years, would do well to send to Messrs. G. P. Putnam & Sons, 27 W. 23d St., New York City, for a copy of "Primitive Man in Ohio," 248 illustrations, price, \$3.00. The book is by a number of field-workers, Dr. H. T. Cresson, Mr. Gerard Fowke and Mr. Warren K. Moorehead.

Summing up the work, and the results of the exploration, we arrive at some very interesting conclusions:

First, the short-heads were the stronger tribe, occupied the larger villages, built the intricate plain works, and the strong hill-top fortifications, and were the "Mound-Builders."

Second, they were skilled in the use of flint, stone, and copper. Their effigies of birds and animals, which they saw in the woods, are true to Nature, and evince no mean artistic ability.

Third, they traded and traveled extensively, lived in fixed villages, and cultivated the soil.

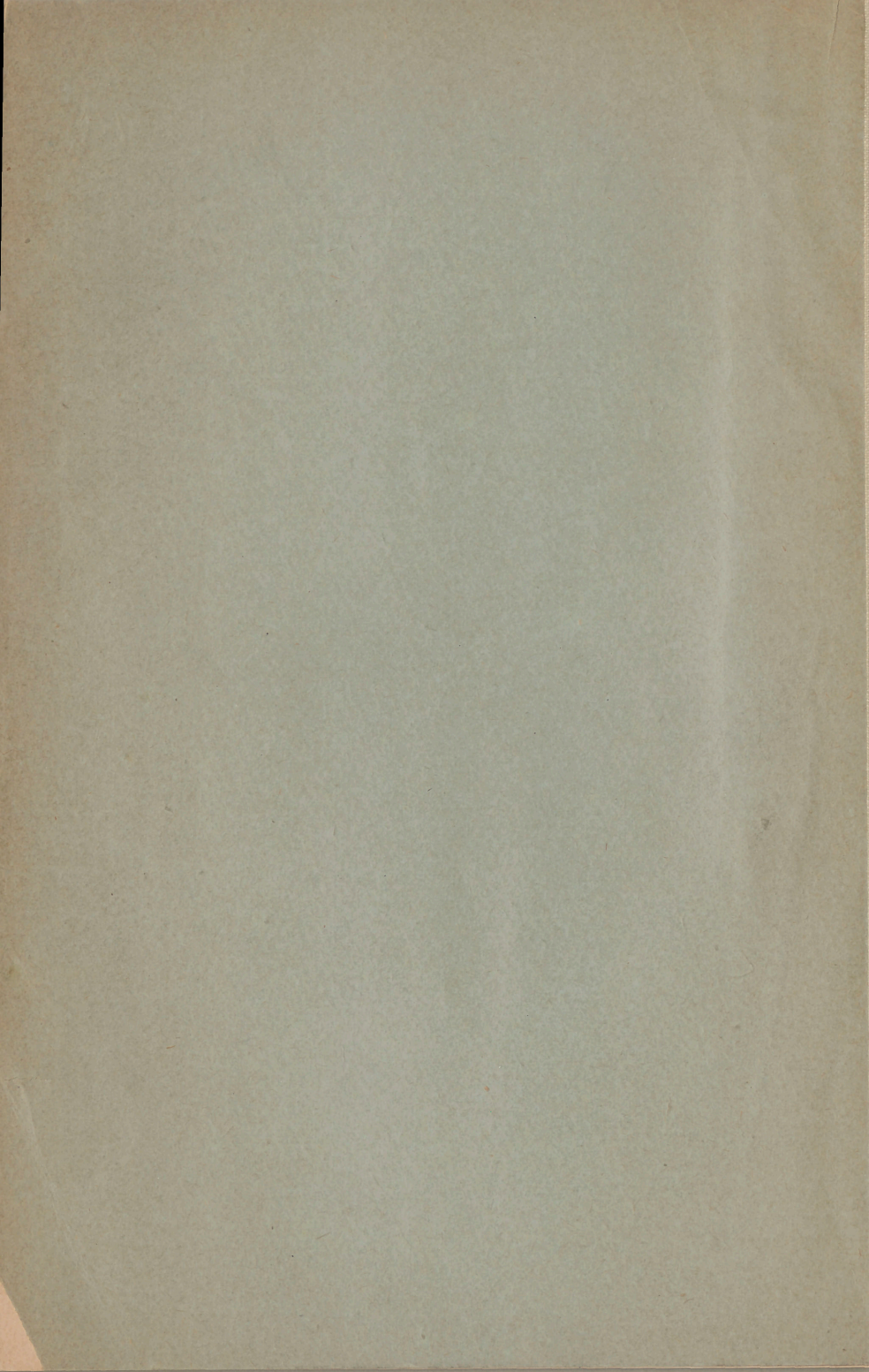
Fourth, they had no knowledge of the smelting of metals, of the use of an alphabet, or of means of trans-

portation, other than upon their own backs, or in frail canoes; no knowledge of the setting of broken bones, &c. They were but intelligent savages, although considerably above the Ohio Indians of 1650 to 1800, and were in no sense civilized. Where they observed strange rites and customs, erected enclosures, and buried their dead amidst pomp and ceremony, many centuries after, the white man erected his towns and cities. Then was instituted a *real* civilization in the Ohio Valley.



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Putnam, F.W. (Frederic Ward), 1839-1915.
A Description of the exhibit from W.C. H
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